

SPORTS II

Democrat and Chronicle

NICE ON THE ICE

The modern-day ice fisherman can relax at room temperature awaiting the action. Story on **9E**.

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Victor senior tuning up his takedowns

By **Walt Slater**

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CANANDAIGUA — Victor's Dan Payne prefers to keep things simple when he's on the mat.

"I like to use basic moves," the senior 155-pounder said. "I just go right at them (opponents)."

That approach has served him well. Although Payne lost in the final of the Bradshaw tournament last night to Watkins Glen's Matt Marciniak, Payne's weekend was more than successful.

He pinned Bloomfield's Tom Tretter and whipped Jim Conrap of Windsor (Sec. 4), 17-3, Friday night, then piled up a 17-2 lead for a technical fall over semi-final foe Eric Timmerman of Canastota

(Sec. 3) yesterday afternoon to advance to the final of Canandaigua's 15th annual Bradshaw Tournament at Community College of the Finger Lakes.

The tournament was Payne's first in wrestling's 155-pound class. Last month he wrestled at 167. A year ago he stayed primarily at 138.

Now the Victor senior is sending out a notice that he will be a major contender for Section 5's lone 155-pound berth in the state tournament in March.

Marciniak, who placed fourth at 145 pounds at last season's state championships, poked Payne in the eye early in the first period of the final as Payne moved in for a takedown at the edge of the mat, and was penalized one point. He then used takedowns in the first and second

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period and a third-period reversal to hand Payne (19-1-1) his first loss, 6-3.

"He's the first person I've been up against who's as good on his feet as I am," Payne said. "He might even be a little better."

The other blemish on Payne's record is a 4-4 tie with Dansville's Jim King earlier in the season, in which he was penalized two points for unnecessary roughness.

Takedowns are Payne's specialty, as Conrap and Timmerman found out, and the fireman's carry and the high crotch — nothing fancy, remember — are among his favorite moves.

"I'm best when I'm wrestling on my feet," Payne said. "I take them down and let them up. Takedowns are the fun part of wrestling. To me they're what its all about."

The 17-year-old senior — he won't reach 18 until next September — placed fourth at 165.5 pounds at last summer's Empire State Games scholastic men's freestyle competition in Ithaca.

Payne had a 12-1 record at 138 last winter when he suffered a partial tear of the medial collateral ligament in his right knee. He missed a month of competition, then came back to advance to the sectional Class B semifinals before he reinjured the knee and was forced to default to Attica's Rich Thiel.

A summer of training with college

wrestlers at twice-weekly, open-gym sessions — some of them from Ithaca College's outstanding team — and freestyle training with good friend Terry Lucero of Bloomfield, a 167-pound finalist last night, improved Payne's quickness and strength and made him a more intense wrestler.

"Intensity is one of the most important aspects of wrestling," he said. "Sometimes I can get lackadaisical, but wrestling against those older guys taught me how raise it a level. If I can get myself up to the same intensity level now dropping back down to high school, I know it will carry me through the tough matches."

Other tournament highlights:

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Senior tunes up his takedowns

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• Brockport's **Steve Taylor** remained undefeated, pinning Wayne's Keith Ranck in the 145 final.

• East Rochester's **Pietro Firgiueli** and **Roy Frey** advanced their records to 18-0 by claiming championships. Firgiueli defeated Jeff New of Canastota (Sec. 4), 6-3 at 98 and Frey dominated Larry Fontaine of Queensbury (Sec. 2), 9-1, to win the 105 crown. **D.J. Williams** gave the Bombers a third champion when he defeated Queensbury's Jason Spector, 10-2, in the 250-pound final.

• Gates-Chili's **Rob Giannavola** (14-0) blanked Shane Kreiniteder of Lancaster (Sec. 6), 4-0, for the 112-pound championship, but teammate Jeff Mohr (13-2) lost to undefeated Dave Brainard of Falconer (Sec. 6), 6-0, in the 119 final. The Spartans' **Shawn Bauer**

(15-0) manhandled Wayne's Brad Miller (14-2), 17-6 in the 126 championship bout and G-C's **Jim Barbato** (13-1) crushed Falconer's Derrek Abbey, 12-0, at 126. Barbato ended ER's Mike O'Lena's unbeaten skein in the semifinals. O'Lena (16-2) lost again in the consolation final to Brockport's Anthony Conte (15-3), 1-0. Conte suffered his second 3-1 loss to Barbato this season on Friday after defeating him, 3-2, at Spencerport's Teike-Bernabi Tournament.

• Bloomfield's **Terry Lucero** (20-0), a freestyle gold medalist at 178.5 pounds at the 1989 ESG, defeated Gates-Chili's Kevin Sommers, 13-6, in the 167 final.

• Webster's **Brian Marcinek** (17-0) pinned Queensbury's Jason Traber in 46 seconds to win the 177-pound championship.

• Queensbury (Sec. 2, 139.5 points) claimed the team title. East Rochester (123.5) edged Canastota (122) for second place when Williams won the tournament's last match, and Gates-Chili (118) placed fourth.

